

**Montgomery College**  
**Rockville Campus**  
**Philosophy in Literature**  
**PHIL 205, CRN# 33274**  
**Spring 2019**  
**1/28/19 – 5/13/19**

**Professor: Auksuole A. Rubavichute**

**Email: [auksuole.rubavichute@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:auksuole.rubavichute@montgomerycollege.edu)**

**Office Phone Number: 240-567-7432**

**Office Number: MT 416**

**Office Hours: MW, 1:00–2:30 PM (MT 416); F, 1:00–2:00 PM (MT 416) and TR, 10:00 – 11:00 AM (online only)**

**Meeting Days & Time: DL**

**Room Number: DL Web**

**Credit Hours: 3 Semester Hours**

**Department: World Languages and Philosophy**

**For technical assistance with My MC or Blackboard, contact the Montgomery College IT Service Desk at 240-567-7222 or [ITServiceDesk@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:ITServiceDesk@montgomerycollege.edu).**

**Course Description:**

Reading and philosophical criticism of novels and plays containing ideas significant for ethics, metaphysics, religion, and social policy. Particular attention will be given to modern writers. (HUMD) Prerequisite(s): Second-year standing or consent of department *Assessment Level(s)*: ENGL101/ENGL101A, MATH093/MATH096, READ120. *Three hours each week. Formerly PL 205. Three hours each week.*

**Course Materials/Supplies Needed:**

There is no required textbook for this course. All required readings (books) and other materials are posted in this course shell on Blackboard and accessible to students free of charge. Please note that you can obtain these readings (books) in most bookstores and online, if you would like hard copies.

**Course Objectives:**

- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the philosophical themes as they are exemplified in works of literature.
- Students will be able to demonstrate introductory understanding of prominent writers and movements, which have comprised the ideological history of the world.
- Students will be able to construct simple arguments for philosophical positions.
- Students will be able to think critically about their own worldviews.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate a comprehension of philosophical issues and themes in literature.
- Trace specific philosophical issues in literature.
- Critically evaluate the roots of existentialist and naturalist themes in literature.
- Contrast utopian and anti-utopian literature.

- Identify and trace communitarian ethical idea in classic literature and identify the emergence of liberal ideas.

**Course Outline and Requirements:**

On the left side of your Blackboard shell, you will see a button marked “Course Calendar.” Clicking that will open up the course calendar. With the exception of the discussion board assignments, you may proceed through the material faster if you wish. The discussion board assignments require actual discussion to complete, so you will need to keep pace with the class. Most importantly, *you cannot go slower*. **The deadlines are firm. If you miss a deadline, generally, your assignment will not be accepted.** If you follow the schedule, you will move at a steady pace throughout the semester. Most assignments are open from the beginning of the semester. **But, once the deadline has passed, that assignment will no longer be accepted, unless arranged in advance because of extenuating circumstances.**

**Course Requirements:** Your active participation will only help your level of comprehension. Thus, it is to your advantage to read each assignment carefully and participate in discussions as much as possible. Your grade will be a factor of 4 elements: 10 quizzes, an annotated bibliography assignment, 10 discussions, and a term paper.

**1. Quizzes:** After reading each assigned text, you will need to take a 10 question quiz. Each question is worth 2 points. You can take the quiz twice, the higher of the two grades will be the official grade for the quiz. There is a deadline for each quiz, so you must stay up to date with the material. *You will not be able to wait and take the quizzes at the end of the semester.*

**2. Annotated Bibliography Assignment.** You will have to complete an annotated bibliography. The details and the guidelines for this assignment will be provided in the course shell on Blackboard.

**3. Discussion Posts:** You will have 10 discussion topics throughout the semester. You must write a 300 word post in reply to the topic, and a 100 word reply to one other student’s posting for each topic. So, 10 times in the semester you need to have 400 word’s worth of philosophical discussion. As you will see below, this is the major part of your grade, so be involved in the discussions! Note: there is a time limit on these discussion posts, so you cannot wait and do all your posts at the end of the semester. You must stay on top of things and post your comments as the semester goes along (see schedule below).

**4. Term Paper:** I will give you a topic on which you must write a brief essay (about four to five pages typed and double-spaced). The point of this essay will be to focus on one particular philosophical argument or theory in a work of literature. You will need to research your topic. Your grade on this paper will be primarily based on the clarity of your writing, the command of the material and the “depth” of your explanations. I will give you the grading rubric I will use to assess your essay. You should use this rubric as a guide to develop your outline. The due date for this assignment is marked in the "Course Calendar" on the left of your screen. The topics for the essay and the essay grading rubric will be posted in the "Term Paper" section of the course. You will have to upload this essay through the appropriate dropbox located in the same "Term Paper" section.

**Grading:** Below are the course requirements and the grading scale.

Orientation Quiz (mandatory)	(1 x 10) = 10
Introduction Forum	(1 x 25) = 25
10 Discussion Forums	(10 x 45) = 450
10 Unit Quizzes	(10 x 20) = 200
Annotated Bibliography Assignment	(1 x 165) = 165
Term Paper	(1 x 150) = 150

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<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>
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The final grade will be based on the following scale:

900-1000= A
800-899=B
700-799=C
600-699=D
599 and below= F

900-1000=A. A grade of 'A' will be given to work that is superior, shows thought, effort, insight, and some degree of originality. Mere competence is unlikely to earn an A. In the case of writing assignments, an 'A' paper will have virtually no typographical, grammatical, or stylistic errors. It demonstrates original and thoughtful engagement with content. It is substantial, well developed, and effectively organized. Its sentences are clear, precise, and well-structured.

800-899=B. A grade of 'B' will be given for above-average work that shows thought, effort, and insight. In the case of writing assignments, a 'B' paper will go beyond mere competence, and will contain minimal typographical, grammatical, or stylistic errors. It contains many strengths of an 'A' paper, but it lacks the thoughtfulness and originality of the superior paper.

700-799=C. A grade of 'C' indicates average work. In the case of writing assignments, a 'C' paper fulfills the assignment and is adequately organized, but the supporting evidence and the thoughtful engagement with content are minimal and organization is rather mechanical. The writing is not marred by serious typographical, grammatical, or stylistic errors.

600-699=D. A grade of 'D' indicates work that is below average. In the case of writing assignment, a 'D' paper is marked by failure to focus on a thesis, poor organization, lack of development, or recurrent typographical, grammatical, or stylistic errors.

0-599=F. A grade of 'F' indicates work that is unacceptable. In the case of writing assignments, an 'F' paper typically ignores the terms of the assignment, or it may be devoid of thesis, support, or organizing principle. Typically, it contains numerous mechanical errors that seriously interfere with comprehension; it may also be marred by serious errors in documentation.

**Course Calendar:**

**PHIL 205: Philosophy in Literature – Course Calendar - Spring 2019 - 1/28/2019-5/13/2019**  
(All Unit Deadlines are 11: 59 p.m.)

**Orientation (Mandatory): The course orientation must to be completed online in the first day(s) of the course. The final deadline to complete the course orientation and take the orientation quiz is 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, February 2, 2019.**

**Class Introductions Forum - Deadline: Sunday, February 3, 2019.**

**For each unit you are required to do the following:**

1. Read the assigned texts in the unit carefully
2. Do the indicated Discussion Board
3. Review the assigned texts and study for the quiz
4. Take the quiz

**Unit 1: Philosophy, Literature, and Knowledge - Deadline: Sunday, February 10, 2019.**

**Discussion #1**

**Reading Quiz #1 (after carefully reviewing Plato's "Ion")**

**Unit 2: Personal Identity and Time - Deadline: Sunday, February 24, 2019.**

**Discussion #2**

**Discussion #3**

**Reading Quizzes #2 and #3 (after carefully reviewing Kafka's "The Metamorphosis" and Dostoyevsky's "The Double")**

**Unit 3: The Problem of Good and Evil - Deadline: Sunday, March 10, 2019.**

**Discussion #4**

**Discussion #5**

**Reading Quizzes #4 and #5 (after carefully reviewing Tolstoy's "The Death of Ivan Ilyich" and Hawthorne's "Rappaccini's Daughter")**

**Unit 4: Free Will and Determinism - Deadline: Sunday, March 24, 2019.**

**Discussion #6**

**Reading Quiz #6 (after carefully reviewing Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex")**

**Annotated Bibliography Assignment - Deadline: Sunday, April 14, 2019.**

**Unit 5: Moral Responsibility, Obligations, and Justice - Deadline: Sunday, April 21, 2019.**

**Discussion #7**

**Discussion #8**

**Reading Quizzes # 7 and #8 (after carefully reviewing Sophocles' "Antigone" and O'Connor's "The Comforts of Home")**

**Unit 6: Reality and Human Condition - Deadline: Saturday, May 4, 2019.**

**Discussion #9**

**Discussion #10**

**Reading Quizzes # 9 and #10 (after carefully reviewing Woolf's "Mrs. Dalloway" and "The Myth of the Cave" in Book VII of Plato's "Republic")**

**Term Paper - Deadline: Saturday, May 11, 2019.**

**EXTRA CREDIT (OPTIONAL) REFLECTIVE ESSAY: You can submit a short reflective essay for extra credit. This essay is intended to give you an opportunity to actively engage with what you are reading. It has two parts, a summary and a response. In the first part, you need to select a short reading from the assigned readings in the units. Namely, you can choose a particular chapter, a quotation, a page, or a passage from the assigned reading. Please make sure that you document your selection with a parenthetical in-text citation and a page-number reference. Summarize your selection in a few paragraphs. In the response part of the essay, respond to your selection; tell the reader what you think about it, evaluate it, and present your own views on the themes that emerge in your selection. Your reflective essay should be around 400-500 words long (about 1 1/2 - 2 doubled-spaced pages long). Please upload your essay into Blackboard through the appropriate dropbox. Deadline: Sunday, May 12, 2019. Late extra credit (optional) essays will not be accepted for any reason.**

Note: The professor reserves the right to change/modify the course content/syllabus as needed.

**Distance Learning (DL) Classes:**

Because this course is 100% online, all students are required to have strong computer literacy, and to be comfortable interacting in an online environment. All students should familiarize themselves with Blackboard, the course management system used for Distance Learning classes at MC. For all general distance education related questions, contact the Office of Distance Education and Learning Technologies at 240-567-6000 or [dl@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:dl@montgomerycollege.edu).

For technical assistance with My MC or Blackboard, contact the Montgomery College IT Service Desk at 240-567-7222 or [ITServiceDesk@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:ITServiceDesk@montgomerycollege.edu).

You may also want to test your skills to take an online course. Follow the link to a pre-assessment survey to make sure you are ready for online learning:

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/EDU/Department2.aspx?id=24132>.

**General Guidelines for all Coursework and Policies:**

All course assignments must comply with the following requirements to be considered a completed work. Please read these requirements carefully:

- **The deadline for each unit will always be at 11:59 p.m.** Each assignment and its deadline have been clearly identified in the course syllabus and calendar.
- **Failure to identify sources is plagiarism.** Provide the full MLA or APA citation for all outside sources. All references are to be documented within the body of the assignment and on a works cited page.
- **Only your own words will count toward the writing requirements.** The writing assignments are intended to assess your comprehension of the material.

- **All assignments are expected to meet college level writing requirements;** the expectation is for each student to engage the topics using critical analysis. Please do not attempt to provide simplified or elementary answers if you wish to earn credit for your work. Take the time to fully explain your ideas and demonstrate the depth of your understanding to earn the grade you want.
- **There is no credit for partial work.** The minimum writing expectation for each assignment or activity must be satisfied to earn a grade. Incomplete assignments will receive a zero.
- **There is a specific course policy regarding late work.** Tests, class activities, extra credit, etc., are excluded from the late work policy and are always due by the stated deadline. Late work for an essay or some other project will only be accepted in a case where there are extenuating circumstances that the instructor was informed about in advance of the deadline.
- **The formatting requirements for all assignments are:** typed / word processed, double-spaced, size 12 font, Arial or Times New Roman script, 1 inch margins (default setting), and a limited number of grammatical errors.
- **All essays are to be submitted as one electronic file to the appropriately titled online dropbox.** Again, all pages of an essay are to be submitted together. Essays will not be accepted via any other delivery method, unless prior approval was obtained.
- **Essays submitted online must be in one of the following file formats: doc or pdf.** Other document formats are unacceptable and will be rejected by the dropbox. **Please don't forget to upload them into Blackboard.**

#### **Course Etiquette:**

- E-mail – Please allow 24 hours for a reply via e-mail. There may be periods where it may take longer to get a reply (such as weekends and holidays). Again, be patient and allow me time to get back to you. **For any technical issues with Blackboard or your computer, please contact the technical support team.**
- Communication Dialogue – Personal attacks, racial or ethnic slurs, outbursts or other inappropriate forms of communication will result in immediate removal from the class and possibly from the College. Think about what you are saying, before you hit the send or submit button.
- Personal Requests – I am happy to assist you with any questions you may have about the course, about the news, or even college life in general. However, personal requests for exemptions to course policies will not be granted unless there is a legitimate reason. It is a form of discrimination by the instructor to grant exceptions without basis. Any exceptions made may require documentation and will only be considered in advance of a deadline.

#### **Late Work Policy:**

All assignments are expected on or before the deadline indicated in the syllabus. I am certainly willing to work with you through extenuating personal circumstances should the need arise to submit a late assignment. Any student who needs to submit a late project must contact me in advance of the deadline for approval and to make alternative arrangements. You may be required to provide some form of written documentation in order to substantiate a request to submit a late assignment.

If approved, late work will be considered for up to 50% of the original value of an assignment. Late work must be submitted within 1 calendar day (24 hours) of the original deadline (including weekends and holidays). If the assignment has not been submitted within the time allotted after the original deadline, it will receive a zero. Due to time constraints, late work will not be accepted in the final unit of the course (the final course deadline). Tests, discussion forum activities and extra credit essays are excluded from the late work policy and are due by the stated deadlines.

**Online Course Attendance:**

Students are expected to log-in and utilize Blackboard for a total of three hours per week in a regular semester. In shorter semesters, where a week is equivalent to each day, that means you should plan to have 4-6 hours per day for successfully completing the course. You will also need to dedicate about the same amount of time to studying and working on assignments (approx. 4-6 hours total). As a general expectation, you should login to the course and check your e-mail three times per week or once per day in a mini-term.

You are free to work ahead at your own pace. However, be sure to avoid falling behind. Each assignment deadline will serve as a benchmark for your overall progress in the course. Remember, the distance education environment requires a high degree of self-discipline and intrinsic motivation. As you probably know, successfully completing an online course requires a special dedication. I want you to know that this task is possible, as hundreds of students have completed online courses with me in the past. Over time I have collected feedback from my students and they consistently report that time management is something they struggle with. So, my advice is to make a schedule for this course and stick to it. Trying to work on all the assignments just before a deadline is the recipe for disaster.

**Communication:**

The College considers the Montgomery College email account to be the official means of communication between students and faculty. It is recommended that you check this account routinely for official communication or as directed by your professor. Some items you may find there are: course announcements, invoices, important admission/registration information, waitlist status. To check your e-mail, log into your MyMC online account and locate the e-mail icon in the upper right hand corner of the page.

There are frequent updates posted in the course announcements area and sent out via e-mail. Each student is expected to read the information and keep current with the course. Many frequently asked questions are addressed via announcements and some may contain vital course information. These are official course communications, so bear in mind that you will be held accountable for the information provided via electronic communications.

**Audit Policy:**

If you are taking the class as an audit, you are expected to do the readings and participate in discussion. You do not have to do any of the written work, however.

**Academic Dishonesty/Misconduct:**

Academic dishonesty in college is a very serious offense. Each student is expected to do his/her own work on all tests, papers, and other assignments. Students who engage in any act that the classroom instructor judges to be academic dishonesty or misconduct are subject to sanctions. (See the *Student Code of Conduct*, 07/01/03, for further information.)

Academic Dishonesty or Misconduct can occur in many ways. Some common forms include

- cheating on assignments or examinations (collusion);
- plagiarizing from written, video, or Internet resources;
- submitting materials that are not the student's own;
- taking examinations in the place of another student, including assessment tests.

**For purposes of this course, any one of the above will result in an automatic failure (grade of F) for the course.**

**FERPA.** The *Family Education Rights and Privacy Act* prohibits the instructor from discussing a student's grade and performance in the course with anyone but that student. All exceptions/allowances must be submitted in writing by the student.

**General Education Requirement**

**PHIL 205: *Philosophy in Literature* satisfies a General Education Humanities Distribution requirement.** Montgomery College's General Education Program is designed to ensure that students have the skills, knowledge and attitudes to carry them successfully through their work and their personal lives. This course provides multiple opportunities to develop competency in oral and written communication, as well as critical analysis and reasoning. For more information on the General Education Program, go to [www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened).

**Important Administrative Dates:**

1/31/2019	Deadline to drop with a refund
2/14/2019	Deadline to drop with no credit or change to audit
3/11/2019-3/17/2019	Spring Break: no classes
4/16/2019	Deadline to drop with a grade of 'W'

**Important Student Information Links:**

In addition to course requirements and objectives that are in this syllabus, Montgomery College has information on its web site (see link below) to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information. The link below provides information and other resources to areas that pertain to the following: student behavior (student code of conduct), student e-mail, the tobacco free policy, withdraw and refund dates, disability support services, veteran services, how to access information on delayed openings and closings, how to register for the Montgomery College alert System, and finally, how closings and delays can impact your classes. If you have any questions please bring them to your professor. As rules and regulations change they will be updated and you will be able to access them through the link. If any student would like a written copy of these policies and procedures, the professor would be happy to provide them. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies.

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcsyllabus/>

**The Academic Calendar** is located at

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/departments2.aspx?id=16456>

**ADA Information and Compliance:**

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/Department.aspx?id=53990>

**Alert Montgomery System.** Sign up for Alert Montgomery the official emergency communications service for Montgomery County, MD. During a major crisis, emergency or

severe weather event, Montgomery County officials can send event updates, warnings and instructions directly to you on any of your devices.

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832009#/login>

**Code of Conduct.** If you have questions regarding behavioral expectations:

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/WorkArea/DAsset.aspx?id=35945>

**Counseling & Advising.** Academic advising and short term counseling.

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/secondary1.aspx?urlid=4>

**Disability Support Services.** If you are requesting a reasonable accommodation related to a disability:

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/secondary5.aspx?urlid=52>

**Forms:** graduation, involuntary withdraw, change of major, appeals.

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/department2.aspx?id=10072>

**Learning Centers and Academic Support Centers.** If you are a student who would benefit from tutoring and/or support in reading, writing languages, mathematics, Science, and Technology: <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/learningcenters/>

**Safety, Security, & Emergency Operations Plan.** Contacts for security offices, Emergency guidelines & procedures, evacuations, Montgomery College Alert, Emergency Guidelines for Individuals with Disabilities, <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/plain2.aspx?id=4087>

**Sexual Harassment or Discrimination.** Office of Equity and Diversity.

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/Department2.aspx?id=65693>

**Basic Needs Statement:**

“Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, is urged to contact the *Dean of Students Affairs* on your campus. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable the professor to provide any resources that they may possess. We know this can affect performance in the course and Montgomery College is committed to your success.”

**The Deans of Student Affairs, by Campus**

Germantown: Dr. Jamin Bartolomeo, [jamin.bartolomeo@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:jamin.bartolomeo@montgomerycollege.edu)

Rockville: Dr. Tonya R. Mason, [tonya.mason@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:tonya.mason@montgomerycollege.edu)

Takoma Park/ Silver Spring: Dr. Clemmie Solomon, [clemmie.solomon@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:clemmie.solomon@montgomerycollege.edu)

**STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS/ FUEL FOR SUCCESS WEBSITE**

This website offers information about resources for food on our campuses and in the community and has links for community resources. The site offers the schedule for the mobile markets, locations of the food pantries as well as a link for those who wish to contribute their time or money to support our students <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/student-health-and-wellness/fuel-for-success/>

## CAMPUS FOOD PANTRIES

Each of the main campuses has a pantry stocked with snacks and food. Students are welcome to come pick up a snack to carry you through your next class, and to take a few items home.

Campus	Pantry Location	Days & Hours of Operation
<b>Germantown</b>	<i>High Tech (HT) Food Pantry</i> In the hallway, near HT300	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
<b>Rockville</b>	<i>Women's' and Gender Studies Program</i>  <i>Food Pantry</i>  Hallway outside of MT212  ---  <i>Biology Department Food Pantry</i>  Science Center, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor hallway	Monday-Friday  9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  ---  Monday-Friday  9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
<b>Takoma Park/Silver Spring</b>	<i>Commons Food Pantry</i>  CM 110  ---  <i>Institute for Justice, Race and Civic Engagement Food Pantry</i>  Pavilion 4, #202  <a href="mailto:Vincent.intondi@montgomerycollege.edu">Vincent.intondi@montgomerycollege.edu</a>	Monday - Thursday  8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  ---  Monday and Wed: 12:30-4  Tuesday and Thursday: 2-4

## MOBILE MARKETS

The College has a partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank. They distribute a variety of foods at Mobile Markets, at each of the three main campuses. Food is available on a first-come basis for MC students, faculty/staff, and the community. The markets are open to the entire community. No proof of eligibility is required. For information on volunteering at the Mobile Markets, reach to Student Affairs, [Carmen Poston-Travis](#) 240-567-5253 or [Benita Rashaw](#) 240-567-4389. *Please consider volunteering at the Mobile Markets!*

Campus	Mobile Market Location	Time	Dates

<b>Germantown</b>	Outside SA (In inclement weather - High Tech Building (HT), Second Floor Upper Lobby)	10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	February 13, 2019 March 20, 2019 April 10, 2019 May 8, 2019
<b>Rockville</b>	Outside of the North Garage (NG)	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	February 20, 2019 March 27 , 2019 April 17, 2019 May 15, 2019
<b>Takoma Park/Silver Spring</b>	Outdoor space between the Student Center and North Pavilion (In inclement weather - ST atrium)	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	February 6, 2019 March 6, 2019 April 3, 2019 May 1, 2019